

3.19 Irreversible or Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

This section evaluates whether decisions made by the Lead Agency would result in a commitment of or loss of resources. One example might be the construction of a regional shopping center over a coal resource which would make the coal inaccessible. Another might be the use of a renewable resource in a way that prevents renewal.

The proposal would consume natural gas for the life of the project at a rate discussed in Section 3.8, Energy and Natural Resources. This is an irretrievable commitment of nonrenewable natural gas resources. Additional energy and materials would be consumed for facilities and construction. Some of these materials would be recycled at the end of their useful life, but the use of fuels for the facility is an irretrievable commitment as long as the facility operates. This use is irretrievable but could be stopped by the applicant in the future.